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'Claims

pyrimidin-2-one or a pharmaceusigally acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound as claimed of Claim 2 substantially free of the corresponding (+) -enantipmer.

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3. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the (+)enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 5% w/w.

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- 4. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1-to-3-wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 2% w/w.
- 5. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the (+) -epantiomer is present in an amount of less than about 1% w/w.

30 6. A compound as claimed in Claim in substantially pure form.

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A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

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8. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for use in therapy.

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9. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a viral

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10. A method for the treatment of a mammal, including man, suffering from or susceptible to vital infection comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6.

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A method for the preparation of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 which comprises separation of the (-)enantiomer from a mixture also containing the (+)-enantiomer.

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A method as claimed in aim 11 wherein the mixture of compounds is a racemic mixture.

A method as claimed in Claim 11-or Claim 12 the separation is effected by chiral HPLC.

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A method as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the HPLC employs as a stationary phase acetylated β -cyfiddextrin or cellulose triacetate.

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A method as claimed in Claim-11-or-Claim 12 wherein the separation is effected by enzyme-mediated enantioselective catabolism.

16. A method is claimed in Claim 15 wherein the enzyme is employed in immobilised form.

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A method as claimed in Claim 15 or Claim 16 wherein the enzyme 17. is cytidine deaminase.

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A method as claimed in/tlaim/15 or Claim 16 wherein the enzyme is a 5'-nucleotidase.

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